

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. In a computer system having a laboratory information system application program, an operating system and a printer driver, a method for formatting data from a group of laboratory instruments, the method comprising:

obtaining data indicative of outputs of the group of laboratory instruments by  
5 the laboratory information system application program;

transferring the data, by the laboratory information system application program, to an operating system for printing;

transferring the data, by the operating system, to the printer driver;

formatting of the data, by the printer driver, into a format required by an  
10 external monitoring facility; and

storing the formatted data in a file for extraction by the external monitoring facility.

2. In a computer system having a laboratory information system application program, an operating system, a printer driver and a port monitor, a method for formatting data from a group of laboratory instruments, the method comprising:

obtaining data indicative of outputs of the group of laboratory instruments by  
5 the laboratory information system application program;

transferring the data, by the laboratory information system application program, to an operating system for printing;

transferring the data, by the operating system, to the printer driver;

transferring the data, by the printer driver, to the port monitor;

10

formatting of the data, by the port monitor, into a format required by an external monitoring facility; and

storing the formatted data in a file for extraction by the external monitoring facility.

3. A system for formatting laboratory instrument output data, the system comprising:

a laboratory information system application program for receiving data outputs from one or more laboratory instruments;

5 an operating system operable to run the laboratory information system application program and to provide centralized printing; and

a printer driver for receiving data to be printed and formatting the data according to a predetermined format.

4. A system for formatting laboratory instrument output data, the system comprising:

a laboratory information system application program for receiving data outputs from one or more laboratory instruments;

5 an operating system operable to run the laboratory information system application program and to provide centralized printing; and

a port monitor for receiving data to be printed and formatting the data according to a predetermined format.